

PA 23/19

M. Smith  
for the record  
23/19

273/492/1

C C Bright Esq  
SAMD  
FCO

BRITISH EMBASSY  
BUENOS AIRES

Aw 040/325/4		
RECEIVED NO. 13		
24 FEB 1982		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

18 February 1982

SOUTH GEORGIA : ILLEGAL VISIT BY ARGENTINE NAVAL VESSEL

1. As reported in our telegram number 34 of 9 February, I duly delivered our protest Note over the unauthorised visit of the Argentine naval ice-breaker "Almirante Irizar" to South Georgia to the Antarctic and Malvinas Department of the MFA on 9 February, at the same time reiterating the terms of our earlier oral representation, as instructed. The protest was received without significant comment, and I did not need to hand over a copy of the affidavit concerning the sighting of the ship.

2. Yesterday I was summoned back - this time by the head of the Antarctic section of the Department, although Colonel Balcarce was also present - to receive the expected Argentine rejection of our protest (a translation of which is attached). The atmosphere was reasonably cordial and again there was no oral comment of substance; but the terms of the reply are explicit enough.

M Hickson

cc: M W Growcott Esq (with enc.)  
PORT STANLEY

EMBASSY TRANSLATION

NOTE NO 112

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship present its compliments to the Embassy of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and refers to the latter's Note No 24 of 9 February.

In connection with this, the Argentine Government reiterates to the British Government that its sovereign rights over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands continue in full force, and it therefore rejects the protest contained in that communication.

In the same connection, it also recalls that the General Assembly of the United Nations has expressed itself on this question through its Resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII) and 31/49 (XXXI), which recognised the existence of a dispute between the Argentine and British Governments over sovereignty over the said Islands, inviting both countries to pursue negotiations without delay to find a peaceful solution to the problem.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship reiterates to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the assurances of its highest consideration.

BUENOS AIRES, 16 February 1982